

# Nutrition & Metabolism

Correction

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## Physiological models of body composition and human obesity

David G Levitt\*<sup>1</sup>, Steven B Heymsfield<sup>2</sup>, Richard N Pierson Jr<sup>3</sup>,  
Sue A Shapses<sup>4</sup> and John G Kral<sup>5</sup>

Address: <sup>1</sup>Department of Integrative Biology and Physiology, University of Minnesota, 321 Church Street SE, Minneapolis, MN 55455, USA,

<sup>2</sup>Merck & Co, 126 E. Lincoln Avenue, PO Box 2000, RY34-A238, Rahway, NJ 07065-0900, USA, <sup>3</sup>St. Luke's-Roosevelt Hospital, Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons, NY Body Composition Unit, 114th street and Amsterdam Avenue, NY, NY 10025, USA,

<sup>4</sup>Department of Nutritional Sciences, Rutgers University, 96 Lipman Drive, New Brunswick, NJ 08901, USA and <sup>5</sup>Department of Surgery, SUNY Downstate Medical Center, Box 40, 450 Clarkson Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11203, USA

Email: David G Levitt\* - [levit001@umn.edu](mailto:levit001@umn.edu); Steven B Heymsfield - [Steven\\_Heymsfield@Merck.Com](mailto:Steven_Heymsfield@Merck.Com);

Richard N Pierson - [RNP1@columbia.edu](mailto:RNP1@columbia.edu); Sue A Shapses - [shapses@aesop.rutgers.edu](mailto:shapses@aesop.rutgers.edu); John G Kral - [jkral@downstate.edu](mailto:jkral@downstate.edu)

\* Corresponding author

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### Abstract

Correction to Levitt DG, Heymsfield SB, Pierson Jr RN, Shapses SA, Kral JG: Physiological models of body composition and human obesity. *Nutrition & Metabolism* 2007, **4**:19

### Correction

Since publication of our first article [1] we have noticed that the following corrections needed to be made. There is an error in the calculation of the body fat in the original version of this article. The tritium distribution space was not properly corrected for non-aqueous hydrogen exchange and water density resulting in estimates of per-

cent body fat that are about 2% less than the correct percent. This produces small errors in the regression relations for the prediction of body fat from BMI or body density described originally in Tables 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9. The corrected tables (calculated using  $TBW = 3H_2O \times 0.96 \times 0.994$ ) are provided.

**Table 3: Caucasian males: Dependence of fat fraction on age for two BMI ranges.**

| BMI Range | Ave age (SD)  | Age range | Ave BMI      | Ave Fat Fraction           | N  |
|-----------|---------------|-----------|--------------|----------------------------|----|
| 18 – 24   | 21.86 (2.44)  | 18 – 25   | 22.19 (1.08) | 0.1193 (.046)              | 29 |
|           | 29.94 (2.36)  | 26 – 33   | 22.12 (1.34) | 0.134 (.048) (NS)          | 32 |
|           | 52.83 (19.42) | 34 – 84   | 22.39 (1.31) | 0.173 (.057) ( $p < .01$ ) | 30 |
| 24 – 44   | 25.94 (2.66)  | 21 – 30   | 27.64 (4.00) | 0.188 (.084)               | 47 |
|           | 38.17 (5.07)  | 31 – 48   | 27.42 (3.96) | 0.211 (.072) (NS)          | 48 |
|           | 66.25 (10.69) | 49 – 97   | 27.93 (3.41) | 0.284 (.075) ( $p < .01$ ) | 47 |

The p values are for comparisons to the closest younger age group.

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**Table 4: Caucasian females: Dependence of fat fraction on age for three BMI ranges.**

| BMI Range | Ave age (SD)  | Age range | Ave BMI      | Ave Fat Fraction           | N  |
|-----------|---------------|-----------|--------------|----------------------------|----|
| 17 – 22   | 24.95 (3.41)  | 18 – 30   | 20.00 (1.38) | 0.219 (.045)               | 42 |
|           | 38.04 (5.87)  | 30 – 49   | 20.60 (1.07) | 0.241 (.056) ( $p < .05$ ) | 42 |
|           | 63.32 (11.18) | 49 – 89   | 20.55 (1.01) | 0.298 (.053) ( $p < .01$ ) | 40 |
| 22 – 25.9 | 26.14 (4.72)  | 18 – 33   | 23.30 (1.03) | 0.26 (.049)                | 43 |
|           | 39.12 (4.91)  | 33 – 51   | 23.45 (1.05) | 0.30 (.055) ( $p < .01$ )  | 41 |
|           | 68.12 (10.47) | 52 – 88   | 24.12 (1.15) | 0.36 (.059) ( $p < .01$ )  | 39 |
| 26 – 56   | 34.94 (6.198) | 21 – 45   | 31.19 (6.12) | 0.408 (.074)               | 36 |
|           | 54.0 (4.69)   | 46 – 61   | 31.72 (5.89) | .428 (.056) (NS)           | 35 |
|           | 70.49 (6.87)  | 62 – 90   | 29.36 (2.68) | 0.414 (.053) (NS)          | 35 |

The p values are for comparisons to the closest younger age group

**Table 5: Ethnic dependence of BMI versus fat fraction for males.**

|              | N   | Age range (ave) | BMI range (ave) | Ave Fat Fract. (SD)     |
|--------------|-----|-----------------|-----------------|-------------------------|
| Caucasian    | 129 | 20 – 57 (37.4)  | 22 – 34 (25.42) | 0.321 (0.071)           |
| Black        | 95  | 20 – 52 (37.8)  | 20 – 34 (26.57) | 0.328 (0.074) (NS)      |
| Hispanic     | 37  | 20 – 60 (36.1)  | 20 – 34 (25.40) | 0.311 (0.09) (NS)       |
| Puerto Rican | 41  | 20 – 52 (35.7)  | 20 – 30 (26.18) | 0.348 (0.058) (p < .05) |
| Caucasian    | 153 | 23 – 53 (35.41) | 17 – 25 (21.72) | 0.257 (.061)            |
| Asian        | 35  | 23 – 53 (36.7)  | 17 – 28 (21.25) | 0.282 (.066) (p = 0.07) |

The age range of the Caucasians was adjusted to match the age range of the comparison group. The p values are for comparisons between the ethnic group and Caucasians.

**Table 6: Ethnic dependence of BMI versus fat fraction for females.**

|              | N   | Age range (ave) | BMI range (ave) | Ave Fat Fract. (SD)     |
|--------------|-----|-----------------|-----------------|-------------------------|
| Caucasian    | 129 | 20 – 57 (37.4)  | 22 – 34 (25.42) | 0.321 (0.071)           |
| Black        | 95  | 20 – 52 (37.8)  | 20 – 34 (26.57) | 0.328 (0.074) (NS)      |
| Hispanic     | 37  | 20 – 60 (36.1)  | 20 – 34 (25.40) | 0.311 (0.09) (NS)       |
| Puerto Rican | 41  | 20 – 52 (35.7)  | 20 – 30 (26.18) | 0.348 (0.058) (p < .05) |
| Caucasian    | 153 | 23 – 53 (35.41) | 17 – 25 (21.72) | 0.257 (.061)            |
| Asian        | 35  | 23 – 53 (36.7)  | 17 – 28 (21.25) | 0.282 (.066) (p = 0.07) |

The age range of the Caucasians was adjusted to match the age range of the comparison group. The p values are for comparisons between the ethnic group and Caucasians.

**Table 7: Comparison of linear (eq. (16)) and non-linear (eq. (9)) regression expressions for predicting body fat fraction from BMI and age.**

| Subjects                         | $\pm$ Age | Linear |        |         |         | Non-linear Model I |                |         |        |
|----------------------------------|-----------|--------|--------|---------|---------|--------------------|----------------|---------|--------|
|                                  |           | a      | b      | c       | MSR     | BMI <sub>0</sub>   | f <sub>i</sub> | c       | MSR    |
| Male Caucasians                  | No        | -.166  | .0141  | ----    | 0.00404 | 17.20              | .624           | ----    | .00409 |
|                                  | Yes       | -.218  | .0129  | .00207  | 0.00263 | 19.15              | .500           | .00194  | .00287 |
| Male Caucasian +Hispanic+Black   | No        | -.145  | .0134  | -----   | .00380  | 16.71              | .594           | ----    | .00385 |
|                                  | Yes       | -.206  | .0127  | .00182  | 0.00270 | 18.73              | .496           | .00172  | .00288 |
| Male Asian                       | Yes       | -.156  | .0126  | .00169  | 0.00201 | 15.72              | .438           | .00169  | .00212 |
| Male Puerto Rican                | Yes       | -.155  | .0119  | .00163  | 0.00189 | 17.84              | .536           | .00150  | .00188 |
| Female Caucasian                 | No        | 0.0409 | .0113  | -----   | 0.00391 | 13.50              | .739           | -----   | .00314 |
|                                  | Yes       | -.0240 | .0104  | .00186  | 0.00281 | 14.39              | .635           | .00151  | .00244 |
| Female Caucasian +Hispanic+Black | No        | 0.0494 | .0109  | -----   | .00351  | 13.50              | .728           | -----   | .00276 |
|                                  | Yes       | -.0160 | .0104  | .00169  | 0.00260 | 14.37              | .642           | .00132  | .00222 |
| Female Asian                     | Yes       | -.0903 | .0153  | .00122  | 0.00137 | 12.38              | .573           | .00122  | .00140 |
| Female Puerto Rican              | Yes       | 0.0718 | .00919 | .000947 | .00159  | 12.82              | .639           | .000737 | .00142 |

The regression parameters (either a, b and c; or BMI<sub>0</sub>, f<sub>i</sub> and c) and the mean square residual error (MSR) for the different ethnic groups are listed.

**Table 8: Prediction of fat fraction from BMI for Caucasian + Black + Hispanic subjects.**

| Subjects        | Linear  |        |        | Model I |         |         |       | Model II |         |         |
|-----------------|---------|--------|--------|---------|---------|---------|-------|----------|---------|---------|
|                 | a       | b      | MSR    | $f_l$   | $BMI_0$ | MSR     | $f_l$ | $f_0$    | $BMI_0$ | MSR     |
| Male: 18 – 89   | -.145   | .0134  | .0038  | .594    | 16.71   | 0.00385 | .647  | .129     | 22.00   | 0.00377 |
| Male: 18 – 31   | -.201   | .0134  | .00273 | .543    | 19.39   | 0.00315 | .706  | .118     | 23.78   | 0.00261 |
| Male: 32 – 50   | -.133   | .0119  | .00303 | .505    | 16.54   | 0.00312 | .619  | .153     | 23.54   | 0.00281 |
| Male: 51 – 89   | -.126   | .0136  | .00310 | .628    | 16.28   | .00299  | .661  | .167     | 21.43   | 0.00283 |
| Female: 18 – 90 | +.0494  | .0109  | .00351 | .728    | 13.50   | .00276  | .745  | .220     | 19.65   | 0.00272 |
| Female: 18 – 31 | -.00685 | .0116  | .00237 | .695    | 13.99   | .00225  | .774  | .214     | 21.30   | 0.00181 |
| Female: 32 – 50 | +.0700  | .00963 | .00306 | .723    | 13.86   | .00212  | .737  | .208     | 19.71   | 0.00209 |
| Female: 51 – 90 | +.0106  | .0101  | .00225 | .681    | 11.57   | .00210  | .682  | .249     | 18.28   | 0.00210 |

Model parameters and mean square residual error (MSR) for Model I, Model II and Linear fit are listed.

**Table 9: Prediction of fat fraction from body density for Caucasian + Black + Hispanic subjects.**

| Subjects        | a     | b     | $f_0$ | $f_l$ | $d_0$  | $d_l$  | MSRls   | MSRsiri1 | MSRsiri2 | MSRbro   |
|-----------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|--------|--------|---------|----------|----------|----------|
| Male: 18 – 89   | 4.63  | 4.208 | 0.129 | 0.647 | 1.0678 | 0.954  | .000481 | .000693  | .000711  | 0.000553 |
| Male: 18 – 31   | 4.912 | 4.475 | 0.118 | 0.706 | 1.0695 | 0.948  | .000402 | .000536  | .000597  | 0.000532 |
| Male: 32 – 50   | 4.559 | 4.141 | 0.153 | 0.619 | 1.061  | 0.958  | .000457 | .000723  | .000614  | .000562  |
| Male: 51 – 89   | 4.231 | 3.821 | 0.167 | 0.661 | 1.0612 | 0.944  | .000516 | .000853  | .000957  | .000568  |
| Female: 18 – 90 | 4.673 | 4.239 | 0.220 | 0.745 | 1.048  | 0.9376 | .000640 | .000813  | .00202   | .000662  |
| Female: 18 – 31 | 4.779 | 4.339 | 0.214 | 0.774 | 1.050  | .935   | .000616 | .00066   | .00178   | .000661  |
| Female: 32 – 50 | 4.785 | 4.347 | 0.208 | 0.737 | 1.050  | .941   | .000538 | .000653  | .00191   | .000576  |
| Female: 51 – 90 | 4.606 | 4.175 | 0.249 | 0.682 | 1.041  | .948   | .000722 | .00102   | .00223   | .000732  |

The parameters a and b are the optimal least square values (fat fraction =  $a/\text{density} - b$ ), and  $f_0$  and  $f_l$  are the fat fractions used for the determination of  $d_0$  and  $d_l$  from the values of a and b. The mean square residual error for the least square fit (MSRls), the Siri Model I (MSRsiri1, eq. (13)) and Model II (MSRsiri2, eq. (14)) and the Brozek model (MSRbro, eq. (10)) are also listed.

## References

1. Levitt DG, Heymsfield SB, Pierson RN Jr, Shapses SA, Kral JG: **Physiological models of body composition and human obesity.** *Nutrition & Metabolism* 2007, **4**:19.

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